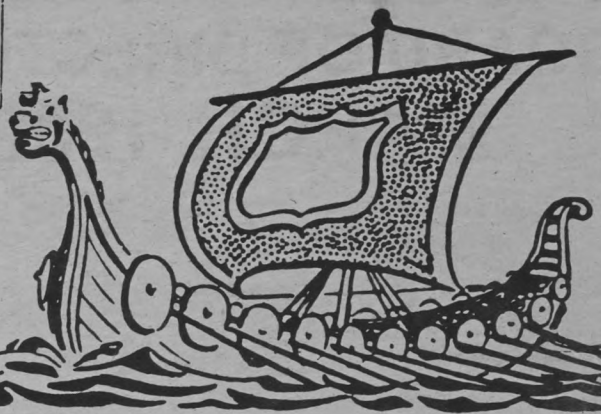


Scandinavian Centre News



PUBLISHED BY THE SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

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DEC.-JAN., 1982

UNIQUE RADIO PROGRAM MARKS 30TH YEAR

Sunday, October 31 marked the 30th anniversary for ACCESS Radio CKUA's Scandinavian programs; the Scandinavian Hour was first aired on October 26, 1922.

Eric Pedersen, appliance salesman at Woodward's, was instrumental in getting the program off the ground, and has been the host of the Danish program since those early days. Arne Johannesen, Norwegian Consul in Edmonton, took charge of the Norwegian program more than 15 years ago, and Viveka Janssen, cataloguing librarian at the University of Alberta Library, joined the Scandinavian Hour in 1974 to host the Swedish program.

Every other Sunday, the three hosts offer ethnic

news, views and music for 20 minutes each. This was the original format, and it seems to be to the liking of the large number of Scandinavians in the province, many of whom have been listening regularly since the early days. For the first nine years, the Scandinavian Hour was broadcast live every Sunday. For the past 20 years, however, it has been heard biweekly and is now taped prior to broadcasting, like most of the other programming on CKUA.

The hosts receive no pay. Dedication, satisfaction and incentive to carry on stem from the knowledge that Scandinavians are listening. And not only Scandinavians - there is a large group of

people in Alberta who may or may not be of Scandinavian origin, but who through marriage, friendship or personal interest see the programs as an opportunity to learn the language and become familiar with the cultural heritage of the three Nordic countries.

Many Scandinavians left their home countries in the great wave of emigration in the latter part of the 1800s to seek their fortunes in North America. The majority of the Scandinavian settlers arrived in Alberta in a secondary emigration wave from the United States when the Canadian West was opened up for homesteading in the early 1900s. Canadian-born second and third generations often express regret at

losing their linguistic heritage, and tune in to the Scandinavian programs to maintain whatever command they may still have of - or just for the joy of hearing - their native Danish, Norwegian, or Swedish.

The objectives of the programs, as the three hosts see them, are to bring the listeners the opportunity to hear the spoken language of their national heritage, and to bring an insight into as many facets of Danish, Swedish, and Norwegian culture as possible. Consequently, news, contemporary issues and human interest, as well as the arts, theatre and literature, are frequently explored. Music is an inherent part of ethno-

cultural heritage and is given a large part of the programs. It may feature the classics, folksongs, country dance as well as more recent works and popular music.

The allocation of time by ACCESS Radio CKUA to the Scandinavian ethnic groups in the province is much appreciated by the three hosts. In return, they contribute their time and effort to produce interesting and informative programming.

The Scandinavian Hour is broadcast biweekly on Sundays, beginning at 5:30 p.m. (Danish at 5:30, Norwegian at 5:50, and Swedish at 6:10). The 30th anniversary was observed in the October 31 broadcast.

TORSKE MARATHONERS SUCCEED

by Gary Johnson

It started out as a crazy challenge which Kaare Askildt and I accepted at the April Torske Klubben meeting; we announced that we were undertaking a five-month training program in order to run in the Edmonton Marathon (26.2 miles) on September 5th.

It wasn't until the morning after the Torske meeting (when the akavit had worn off) that we really realized what we had committed ourselves to. The Marathon dates back to the days of the Greek Olympics as a gruelling event attempted only by the fittest of the fit!

Today Marathon races are held annually throughout the world, and thousands of runners participate. Some of the more famous are held in Boston, New York and Oslo, but we felt that the Edmonton

Marathon would be a suitable challenge for us to begin with.

BEGAN SCHEDULE

With the support of Coco Barnett (Kaare's girlfriend and an accomplished marathoner) we began our five-month training schedule to prepare us for September 5th.

The beginning was marked by aches, pains and doubts, since neither of us knew much about running, nor were we in condition to run very far. We had to train when time allowed, a this sometimes meant running in early morning or late evening, whether it was boiling hot or raining and cold.

My runs were often made more enjoyable when I was joined by my two daughters on their bikes, with our Norwegian Elkhound trailing behind.

Special diets and restrictions (no hard liquor) had to be observed, and stretching exercises to prevent injury were a must before and after every run. Kaare and I became very familiar with the use of ice bags to relieve sore muscles.

STRANGE THINGS HAPPEN

As the weeks passed, strange things began to happen. Kaare and I were turning into runners! We were losing weight (as well as the belly rolls) and our aches and pains became fewer. On July 1st we ran in the Canada Day 15 km. (9.2 mile) race through the river valley and university areas, and finished in a very respectable 1 hour, 19 minutes. Kaare also ran in the Banff-Jasper relay for the Nordic team, and ran his position very capably.

On August 1st we ran in the

Spruce Grove Half-Marathon (13 miles). Kaare finished in 1 hour, 41 minutes, and I was right behind at 1 hour, 44 minutes.

At this point in our program we were running 45 miles a week - rain or shine.

LONGEST TRAINING RUN

On August 15th we attempted the longest training run of our program: 10 miles. With Coco acting as our official pacer, timer, water and sponge attendant, as well as cheering section, we pounded through the south-west end of the city, up and down hills, through residential areas, and out onto country roads.

Coco stayed close and warned us of approaching traffic, and shouted words of encouragement as the hot sun and the rolling hills took their toll.

We completed the 20 miles with no major injuries, and we then felt confident that we could complete the marathon.

PROBLEMS INTERVENED

Things did not always go smoothly. While holidaying in Cranbrook, B.C., in early July I did my 1½-hour training run through their city and suffered a very bad 'shin splint' accompanied with such severe pain that I was sure my hopes of running the marathon were gone. However, six days later the pain disappeared and I was running again.

Kaare also had his problems. In early August while doing a training run on a rolling country road, a car came over the hill and forced him into the ditch. The driver stopped and helped a badly-bruised Kaare

continued on page 3

*We wish you a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!*

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SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

Your Board is making every effort to cut back on costs.

The furniture and equipment has been moved from the Winterburn storage to Commercial Electric's property, and we are grateful to Kurt Sorensen for its free use.

It was also decided to sell some of the equipment, since it is going to take much longer than originally anticipated to start building our new Centre. You will find an itemized advertisement in this paper in that connection.

We are also offering the Scandinavian Centre panel van for sale — again, an ad appears elsewhere.

FUND-RAISING

After an encouraging start, share sales have dropped to a trickle.

It is a great disappointment that so few of our shareholders are participating. Many other ethnic groups are rolling along full speed with their buildings — while we crawl.

We need to know why. Phone any director or the office, or write

to the Board in care of the office and let us know the reason you can't sell two shares. Maybe we can help! Any ideas you might have are also welcome.

NEWSPAPER

We are sorry that some of the news in this paper is a little late reaching you, but since the expense of publishing is very high we have had to cut back on this also. It costs us approximately \$10.00 per year for your paper. Multiply that by the some 2,200 which we send out, and you will soon realize what it is costing us.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Co-operative will be held on March 8, 1983. There will be three vacancies to be filled at that time. Phone Ken Domier, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, at 434-6532 if you can be a candidate.

And be sure to come out to the meeting and take part in the discussion!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION

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**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
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TORSKE MARATHONERS SUCCEED

continued from page 1
into her car and drove him home. But two days later he was running the 20-mile training run with me.

We completed our training a week before the marathon as our schedule called for a lot of rest, very short 'loosening up' runs and a special emphasis on 'carbohydrate loading' with such things as spaghetti (and a few lite beers).

THE BIG DAY
The big day arrived, and at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 5th, Coco, Kaare and I joined 283 other runners in a misty rainfall at Commonwealth Stadium. Coco was attempting to win the Women's Masters title for the third consecutive year, while Kaare and I were attempting to complete the gruelling race. This was the moment that we had trained for, and we were nervous with anticipation. There were men and women of all ages, shapes and sizes, each with his or her own particular motivation and goal.

The gun sounded, and amid cheers from friends and relatives, we were off on two laps of the track before heading out onto the streets of Edmonton. The course headed south on Capilano Freeway across the river, then west on Argyll Road, past the School for the Deaf, north to the University, then north on Groat Road and the St. Albert Trail, east on 137th Avenue, and south on 82nd Street back into the Stadium.



Kaare: Who nailed my feet to the ground?

Kaare started out at an 8-minute-mile pace which would theoretically take him the 26.1 miles in 3 hours, 30 minutes. I had chosen an 8:45-minute-mile pace that should see me complete the distance in 3 hours, 50 minutes. It was the thrill of a lifetime - running in a light rainfall past the timing and sponging stations as officials and spectators shouted encouragement. Police cars and motorcycles roared back and forth as they provided escort for us. First-aid officials were everywhere monitoring each runner's progress to ensure that there were no problems.

KNEE GAVE OUT
At the 14-mile mark I had just made the long climb up the Groat Road to 111th Avenue when my left knee literally 'gave out'. The pain was intense, and I grabbed on to a lightpost and attempted to assess the damage. A first-aid truck pulled up almost immediately and offered assistance. I refused and stated that I would work it out. I was able to stretch out the muscles so that I could stand on the leg, and after several minutes I began limping and running in the direction of the finish line 12 miles away.

A few miles ahead Kaare was having troubles of his own. At the 21-mile mark he hit the dreaded 'wall' that all marathoners fear. His legs turned to rubber and every movement was agony. It was as if someone had 'nailed' his feet to



Gary after 20 miles: Uffda!

the ground. He had covered most of 137th Avenue and the traffic lights at 82nd Street, where he would turn south to the stadium, seemed to be growing farther away rather than closer. With his heavy breathing echoing in his ears, and perspiration dripping, he finally reached the turn and laboriously headed south towards the stadium.

Meanwhile, back on the St. Albert Trail, I had reached a sponging station where I dosed my knee with beautifully cold water and then plodded onward.

MORALE-BUILDERS
I must acknowledge the morale-boosting psychological lift given to Kaare and me by the many friends and relatives who supported us throughout the race. My wife, Evelyn, and my two daughters were at every timing station shouting encouragement. My brother Dale and his wife Judy followed us throughout the race and my two nephews took turns on a bike beside me for over 12 miles. Another friend, Marcel Tremblay, even ran two miles with me urging me on.

I had now covered most of 137th Avenue and was one of the last runners on the course, since my knee had given out twice again and I had had to coax it back into action.

Meanwhile Kaare, running with great determination, had entered the stadium and forced himself to cover the last long lap. He literally collapsed across the finish line and hoped that he wasn't just hallucinating. He had indeed finished in a very respectable 3 hours and 51 minutes.

I was now on 82nd Street, and Sale shouted, "there's the stadium - go for it!" Well, I felt like the proverbial horse heading for the barn after a long day in the field. My tempo increased, and I knew I could make it.

LAST ONE IN
As I descended the ramp into the stadium many runners who had already completed the race and were leaving the stadium stopped to shout encouragement. Two Torske members, Ron Nichol and Don

Sjolie, broke into our Torske drinking song as I went by.

The finish line was already partially dismantled as the officials turned to see a lone, limping runner with an entourage of relatives and friends approaching the finish line. The official time: 4 hours, 34 minutes (definitely not competitive), but I didn't care. My eyes were already filled with tears as I raised my arms skyward and shouted, "I did it!"

CELEBRATION
An hour later at the Awards Banquet a lot of the agony of the race was already forgotten as the runners and officials celebrated. 233 runners finished the race; 53 did not.

We congratulated our 'coach' and friend, Coco Barnett, as she did indeed win the Women's Masters title for the third consecutive time with a run of 3 hours, 19 minutes.

And amid the tears and beers, Kaare and I celebrated our achievement and plans began — for next year!

SOLGLYT SPOTLIGHT

by Evelyn Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Glen Finstad are proud parents of another son, Grant, born October 12th, weight 8 lbs. 14 ozs. Seven-year-old Dean is happy to have a brother.

At our Leif Erickson Supper and Dance, Ruth and Henry Logan, and Isabelle Mjaatveit received Life Memberships in Solglyt Lodge.

Sev and Rose Berge spent the weekend of November 12th in Lethbridge where they attended the 40th wedding anniversary of their good friends, Peter and Sonia.

On November 6th a new lodge was installed in Saskatoon. The Freeloaders provided the entertainment and Solglyt lodge was well represented. 155 new members were signed up. It was a most pleasant evening, even if a surprise nine-inch snowfall made Saskatoon and area streets difficult to navigate.

The Sons of Norway curling group showed great enthusiasm and sportsmanship on October 29th. All members came curling in Hallowe'en attire. After curling a social hour was spent upstairs in the Balmoral Lounge.

On December 3rd the curling games will be followed with a catered turkey meal with all the trimmings, and the exchange of Christmas gag gifts. Our curling club now has a grand total of ten active, fun-loving teams.

Leonard and Karen Blais and family spent Remembrance Day weekend visiting his sister, Evelyn Johnson. Evelyn's mother, Mrs. Leonne Blais of Delmas, Sask.,

also visited with her granddaughters.

Sev and Rose Berge spent a leisurely holiday between August 27th and October 12th. They covered 11,000 miles with their van bound for L'Anse aux Meadows, Newfoundland.

This historic landmark is the place where the Vikings first landed 1,000 years ago. Excavating in the area led to the discovery of buildings and artifacts. These artifacts are now located in a museum in Ottawa.

Reconstruction of three buildings close to the area will contain a display area and information centre.

After spending a few days in Labrador, Sev and Rose motored along the south shores of Newfoundland until the roads ran out. They took in all the Maritime Provinces, driving from New Brunswick down through Maine, Vermont, the State of New York, and up to Ontario again.

Their holiday was timed perfectly with all the autumn colours along the way. It was also a perfect holiday for golfing in every province except Saskatchewan and Manitoba. These two provinces will share their golf courses with Sev and Rose at a later date I am sure.

The Berges spent a relaxing holiday seeing how other people live and learning history which will leave them with many memories to accompany their numerous pictures.

Astrid Hope visited her mother, Lydia Tagseth at Govan, Saskatchewan, for the occasion of her 86th birthday. Astrid also visited with her brother, Art, and family, at Humbolt.

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STEPHAN G. STEPHANSSON MEMORIAL HOME

Speech by Mr. Ingvar Gislason,
Minister of Culture and Education of Iceland.

A large number of people, travellers and pilgrims from Iceland are gathered here today. The group mostly consists of members of the pjooraeknisfelag in Iceland, as well as Icelandic farmers and their families. It is very suitable that this particular group honours the gathering here in Markerville with their presence, for the fact is that both the pjooraeknisfelag and the farmers associations have played an important part in the decision to reconstruct the home of Stephan G. Stephansson and also in the promotion of him and his works with the effect that the authorities in Alberta have decided that his home merits preservation as a public museum.

Dear fellow-countrymen, I should like to thank you sincerely for your initiative and I join you in the celebration of the successful result. The purpose of the pjooraeknisfelag is to support and promote the preservation of the Icelandic heritage in the Canada and the U.S. and to establish and strengthen contacts between Icelanders and people of Icelandic descent in those countries. This cultural project which is celebrated by this event was an obvious target for the efforts of the Society.

Icelandic farmers have been very interested in this project, and their support and financial assistance have really counted for a great deal. The interest and assistance of the farmers is very suitable, and springs out of the duty which the farmers feel to the memory of the poet-farmer, who is an outstanding figure among the many Icelandic farmers who also were poets - some of them great ones - such as Bolu - Hjalmar in Iceland and Gut-tormur J. Guttormsson, the son of a settler, in New Iceland on Lake Winnipeg. It is no surprise that the quality of Stephan G. Stephansson's poetry astounds many people, who cannot imagine that an "uneducated farmer" could soar into heights of inspiration and wisdom and delve deep into the mysteries of the human soul. Where did Stephan G. Stephansson obtain the talent and education to become a great poet as he is? His gift for poetry and his talents as a man of letters were of course innate qualities, but he was also possessed of the will and ambition to exercise these talents.

Why not look for the key to the problem in the cultural environment he was born into, the Icelandic farming society in the 19th century as it had developed for a thousand years? Accounts of Stephan G. Stephansson's early years in Skagafjorour and Baroardalur in Iceland seem to indicate that he liv-



ed in well educated community and that he received his education from Icelandic books and informed people around him, without attending other schools than his home and his community. Everything seems to indicate that Stephan G. Stephansson has sailed for America equipped with a sound general education along with his genius - a gift only a few possess. In America new ways to self-education were open to him and he availed himself of these as much as possible. The English language offered him a key to a vast world of literature and sources of knowledge. It also seems to me - contrary to what is sometimes held - that for most of his life in America, Stephan G. Stephansson has had considerable amounts of time outside the day's work to pursue his main interests, politics and poetry as well as correspondence with his friends and comrades in America and Iceland. After Stephan G. Stephansson's move to Markerville in 1889, aged 35, he seems to have been quite well off, as his house seems to indicate, which although no palace is not exactly a settler's cabin either. Here Stephan G. led a pleasant life as an independent farmer, free and self-sufficient. Stephan's wife, Helga Jonsdottir from Mjoidalur in Baroardalur, hard-working and intelligent as her writings indicate, helped and supported her husband in every possible way. Stephan's children had to lend a helping hand very early, not only easing the burden of daily chores off their father, but also giving him more time for his literary pursuits.

From the above it may be seen that many factors contributed to the poet's outstanding achievements in the field of literature: his innate genius, his education which he received in a highly developed farmer society in Iceland, the opportunities to read and study he received when he had moved to America and not least his position as a farmer here in Markerville, surrounded by helping children and a loving and resourceful wife.

Although Stephan G. Stephansson often had disputes with others about various topics of the day he had the fortune to gain the friendship of a large number of notable persons who supported him and encouraged him to carry on his work. Stephan became a beloved poet both in Iceland and among Icelandic settlers in America and had little trouble finding publication for his works both in newspapers, magazines and books.

Ladies and gentlemen:

On this occasion the foremost thought on our mind is gratitude to Stephan G. Stephansson for his great and lasting life's work, and we honour his memory on this day.

I should like to repeat my thanks to all those who participated in the restoration of the poet's home, both individuals, associations and the authorities of Alberta, but especially the pjooraeknisfelag and the associations of Icelandic farmers.

Long live the memory of Stephan G. Stephansson.

Thank you.

THE CONTINUING STORY OF THE "MAD PRAIRIE MARINER OF MACRORIE"

The ship, meanwhile, began to disappear - almost from the day they took Old Tom away. Vandals looted its brass and metal parts; farmers from the surrounding area helped themselves to whatever lumber they could salvage. More than a decade's worth of sweat, ingenuity, and a fierce, unbending determination melted away in a matter of months; even the massive boiler was dynamited and carted off for scrap. Finally, in a last-ditch effort to save at least a remnant of his late friend's dream, Victor Markkula, also a Finnish homesteader from Macrorie, bought what was left of *Sontianen's* remains and hauled the pieces to his farm. He used them as impromptu granaries during World War II.

And that might have been the end of the saga of Old Tom, the mad prairie mariner of Macrorie, had it not been for Mullin, self-confessed collector and lover of old junk, who came across the story almost a decade later and became obsessed with the notion

of completing the tragic Finlander's dream. 'Moon' Mullin began to search the Macrorie area for the ship's remains in the early Fifties, and discovered them on the old Markkula farm some years later, slightly rotted where the wood had been in contact with the soil, but otherwise in remarkably sound condition. He was able to convince the directors of The Prairie Pioneer Village and Museum to commit the necessary funds to have the pieces moved to the museum in 1972. There he and a small crew of volunteers proceeded to restore and assemble the ark-like craft with monies secured through a provincial program. The restoration was completed in June, 1977, and, though misnamed *Don-tianen* in the process, the ship now stands on the museum's grounds just south of Moose Jaw, its bow pointed toward Finland with Tom Sukanen's body (exhumed and reburied) by its side. After almost 40 years of separation, the dream and the dreamer are again one.

SHAW, Mackin (Mickey) Sigridur

On November 1, 1982, Mrs. Mickey Shaw of Edmonton passed away at the age of 48 years after a lengthy illness.

She is survived by her husband Donald; one son, Kevin, of Edmonton; four daughters, Dawn and Colleen of Edmonton, Louise of London, Ontario, and Diane at home; her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sigurdur Peterson of Gimli, Manitoba; two brothers, Gordon of Winnipeg and Robert of Morris, Manitoba; three sisters, Lucille Lane of Calgary, Karen Smith of Chapel Arm, Newfoundland, and Valerie Peterson of Winnipeg.

A memorial service was held at the Foster and McGarvey funeral chapel with Reverend W.J. Graham officiating. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society.

ARNFINSON, Sigfus Franklin

On September 26, 1982 Mr. Sigfus Arnfinson of Edmonton, formerly of Saanichton, B.C., passed away at the age of 71 years. He was born in Siglunes, Manitoba and was an R.C.A.F. veteran of World War II. He was involved with a number of organizations over the years; the Masonic Temple, Royal Canadian Legion and the Icelandic Society of Edmonton and British Columbia. Mr. Arnfinson was employed with the Alberta Government for 25 years until retirement in 1969.

He is survived by his children: 1 son Terrence Sigfus of Edmonton; 4 daughters: Carol Nelson and her husband Mervyn of Devon, Illa Drever and her husband Bill of Oakville, Ontario, Corinne Gust and her husband Bob of Millet, Alberta and Jonina Weir and her husband Andy of Fort McMurray, Alberta; 10 grandchildren: Mrs. Diane (Dennis) Robock, Kimberly, David and Tamara Nelson, Lara and Elena Drever, Sean and Leif Gust, Andrew and Laura Weir; 2 sisters: Mrs. Helga (Ed) Magnusson of Lundar, Manitoba and Mrs. Margaret (Al) Rathbone of St. Catharines, Ontario; 2 brothers: Magnus (Mike) of Edmonton and Halldor (Dori) of Kimberley, B.C., and numerous nieces and nephews. Mr. Arnfinson was predeceased by his mother Anna in 1949; his father Bjorn in 1954; by brothers and sisters: John, Magga, Fay, Art, Sig, Barney and Carol.

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COST HIGH

This newspaper is our largest single expense!

Since we have no income at the present time, your Board has found it necessary for the time being to cut back on the number of editions published.

The next issue will be published on February 1, 1983.

Welcome The World

by Bob Burt

An excellent turnout was seen at the Edmonton Inn Tuesday, November 9th for the father and son Torske when 78 participated; Bas Kaare Askildt welcomed members and their children. The supper was exceptional and, together with akvavit, provided for an excellent evening.

Ken Domier gave a report on Sons of Norway, and Leif Erickson Night held Oct. 30th. George Stewart, treasurer, reported the club is still in good shape, and Bob Burt spoke on Scholarship opportunities for the young people. Sev Berge gave a short talk on L'Anse Aux Meadows, site of the Norse findings in Northern Newfoundland, where he and his wife Rose made a special visit this past summer.

Announcement was made of the December 7th Ladies' Night Torske to be held at the Edmonton Inn, where it is expected at least 200 will attend.

In the election of officers for Torske Klubben for the coming year,

the complete executive were re-elected. Kaare Askildt will be Bas; George Stewart Treasurer; and Bob Johns Secretary. Wally Broen and Doug Peterson were named Auditors. This executive has done an excellent job, and everyone is sure they will be preparing for an even better year.

The guest speaker, Glen Norton, a senior Toastmaster, works with the Edmonton Parks and Recreation for the Design and Implementation Division. His topic was "WELCOME THE WORLD". He spoke enthusiastically on the World University Games, and the responsibility of every Edmontonian to get behind them. Over 300,000 visitors will be here to witness "Universiade 83" next July. Edmonton was honoured for the success of the 1978 Commonwealth Games, and the coming event will be twice the size - second in size only to the Summer Olympics. 85 nations will be represented, while the Commonwealth games entertained only 46. University students will repre-

sent all nations; China is expected to have near 300 athletes, while both America and Russia will each have a full complement.

Glen asked that members of Sons of Norway be prepared to contribute their support. He said 6,000 volunteers are sought to assist in many different ways. Accommodation is also required in the "Operation Open Door" program, when 5,000 rooms will be required for the families and friends of the athletes.

A film was shown by Hal Quilliam showing what is expected this coming year. The games will include Athletics, Swimming, Basketball, Gymnastics, Cycling, Waterpolo, Fencing, Tennis, Volleyball and Diving. A kaleidoscope of entertainment will include dances, cultural festivals, musicians, singers and the heritage of every country.

The pep talk given by Mr. Norton was met with enthusiasm by all those present; Universiade 83 is not that far away.

MELSNESS - WYLIE



A shaded lawn surrounded by tall trees was the setting for a lovely garden wedding at the home of Mr. & Mrs. D. Melsness of Courtenay, B.C.

On August 14th, their daughter Della Marie, became the bride of William James Wylie, son of Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Wylie of Kirkwall, Orkney Isles, Scotland.

The bride was given in marriage by her father and was attended by her sister, Mrs. R. (Darlene) Osberg of Edmonton, and her niece, Jennifer Melsness of Surrey, B.C.

The groom was attended by his brother, Mr. David Wylie of London, England.

The bride's gown of white silk organza, featured a high neckline and yolk of lace. The sleeveless bodice had deep ruffles surrounding the yolk and over the shoulders. Lace embroidered with seed pearls trimmed the skirt which fell into a deep ruffle at the hem and extended into a long ruffled train. Her head piece was a small cap of embroidered lace and white velvet trimmed with a tulle bow at the back.

Her bouquet was white roses interlaced with the tartan ribbon of the groom's family clan.

She wore pearl stud earrings, a gift from the groom, and an antique necklace, worn by her grandmother and all the brides of her mother's family at their weddings.

Darlene and Jennifer wore street-length dresses of flowered blue voile featuring a tucked bodice, long full sleeves and a high ruffled neckline. Darlene carried a bouquet of white daisies. Jennifer wore a halo wreath of blue cornflowers.

The groom and best man wore navy blue suits with Red & Blue ties and a Red boutonniere.

The marriage service was conducted by the Reverend Dorne Cornish of Comox United Church. Mrs. Noel Melsness of Chilliwack, B.C. played the organ.

Sixty guests were present for the service and the buffet lunch served in the garden.

The groom's parents and sisters, Ruth & Anne Wylie, came from Kirkwall, Orkney Isles for the wedding. His brother David came from London, England. Cousins & friends came from Aberdeen & Glasgow. Other guests from a distance included - Mrs. S. Strutt & Mr. D. Fairweather from Ottawa. Mr. & Mrs. R. Osberg, Miss D. Fairweather from Edmonton, Mr. W. Melsness from Medicine Hat - Mr. E. Melsness from Minneapolis, Minn. - Mr. & Mrs. R. Melsness, Kelowna - Mr. & Mrs. L. Melsness & Mrs. N. Melsness from Chilliwack, Mr. & Mrs. Don Melsness & Kelly from Burnaby - Mr. & Mrs. Dean Melsness, Jennifer and Christopher from Surrey, B.C. Mr. & Mrs. A. Stewart & Mr. & Mrs. D. Stewart from Surrey. Mr. & Mrs. L. Brownsey from Victoria.

After a honeymoon on Vancouver Island, the couple returned to Surrey, B.C. where they will live.

NORWEGIAN Birthday In America

by Olaf Sveen

Eva and I went on a short visit to Los Angeles recently, and happened to go to the Hyatt Hotel where the Accordion Federation of North America Convention was taking place. There we met Anthony Galla-Rini, also called "Mr. Accordion" practically the world over, and his Norwegian friend, Hilmar Fredriksen, well-known accordionist from Porsgrunn.

It so happened it was Hilmar's birthday, and it was a happy day for me to meet a fellow Norwegian I had heard so much about but never met. Hilmar played the accordion, among other pieces "Fars vals", a number he wrote which is now on a long-playing record by the veterans Ottar Ake and Oddvar Nygaard.

Hilmar is 68, and claims he has quit playing the accordion, but it didn't sound like it that night! We hope he will keep up his music for many years to come.



Hilmar Fredriksen, Anthony Galla-Rini

SCANDINAVIAN Studies

A new Association for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies was officially founded at the Learned Societies Conference held at the University of Ottawa in June.

Dr. Gurlie Woods of the Carleton University Department of Comparative Literature said about 50 of the association's 160 members attended the two-day program devoted to Scandinavian studies.

The association, Dr. Woods said, will foster communication among researchers, scholars and others interested in Scandinavian studies. She said the term "Scandinavian" will be applied to Finland and Iceland as well as Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

Dr. Woods was elected secretary and editor of the association's newsletter. Dr. Christopher Hale of the University of Alberta was elected president, Dr. Jorgen Dahlie of the University of British Columbia, vice-president.

The association will charge a \$20 membership fee and continue to meet at the annual Learned Societies conferences.

VIKINGS INVADE WESTIN



The Sontianen

by Astrid Hope

The dragon-prowed Viking longboat 'Sontianen' raised its sail and maneuvered its way to the dock at the Westin Hotel to celebrate their second annual Scandinavian Food Fair from October 12th to 24th. The boat has never looked more resplendant than when the mini-lights outlining it came on in the evening.

In the lobby displays of artifacts and crafts from the Scandinavian countries were set up each day, and Gudrun was there with the model to promote our new Scandinavian Centre.

Scandinavian foods were served at the buffet lunch and dinner buffet in the Terrace Restaurant; flags, Viking ships and posters were used for the decor.

A big thank you to all the participants.

RETURNS COST 30¢

It is costing us a full 30¢ for each paper that we mail. Worse even than that! When a paper is returned because you have moved — it costs us another 30¢! If you don't have the time to drop a change of address card in the mail, at least phone the office at 484-1007 and give us your new address, please.

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CHARTER FLIGHTS BEING PLANNED

— Billund-Copenhagen —

Definite plans for Charter Flights for next summer are nearing completion, needing only government approval. This year we will be flying Scandinavian Airlines, and there will be a flight out of Edmonton for three weeks' duration. The tentative date is July 11th. A four-week flight out of Calgary is set for July 5th.

If you are thinking of making the trip next summer, fill in the form below and send it to our Flight Organizer, Vera Nielsen; she'll be glad to send you all the information you need.

To: Mrs. Vera Nielsen
12424 - 141 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5L 2G5
Please send me the following information on next summer's charter flights to Billund-Copenhagen:

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ICELANDIC NEWSLETTER

by Ninna Campbell
UPCOMING EVENTS:

Christmas Party - December 5th at Dunluce School, 11735 - 162 Ave. from 2:30 - 5:00 p.m. Thorrlablot - Club Mocambo, 200 St. Albert Rd., St. Albert. Watch for further details!!

HI EVERYONE!

Our fall season opened October 24th with a very pleasant afternoon viewing slides of Iceland shown by Chris MacNaughton. Following the slide presentation a short meeting was held and election of 1982 officers took place. New President is Brian Sveinbjornson who hails from Wynyard, Saskatchewan.

1982 DIRECTORS:

Brian Sveinbjornson
Harold and Helen Halldorson
Chris MacNaughton
Sam Thorkelson
Linda Ross
Solli Sigurdson
Saga Singers President
- Lucille Oddson
Ladies' Auxillary President
- Beulah Arason

Solli Sigurdson gave a brief resume of the year's activities — one of the busiest we have had.

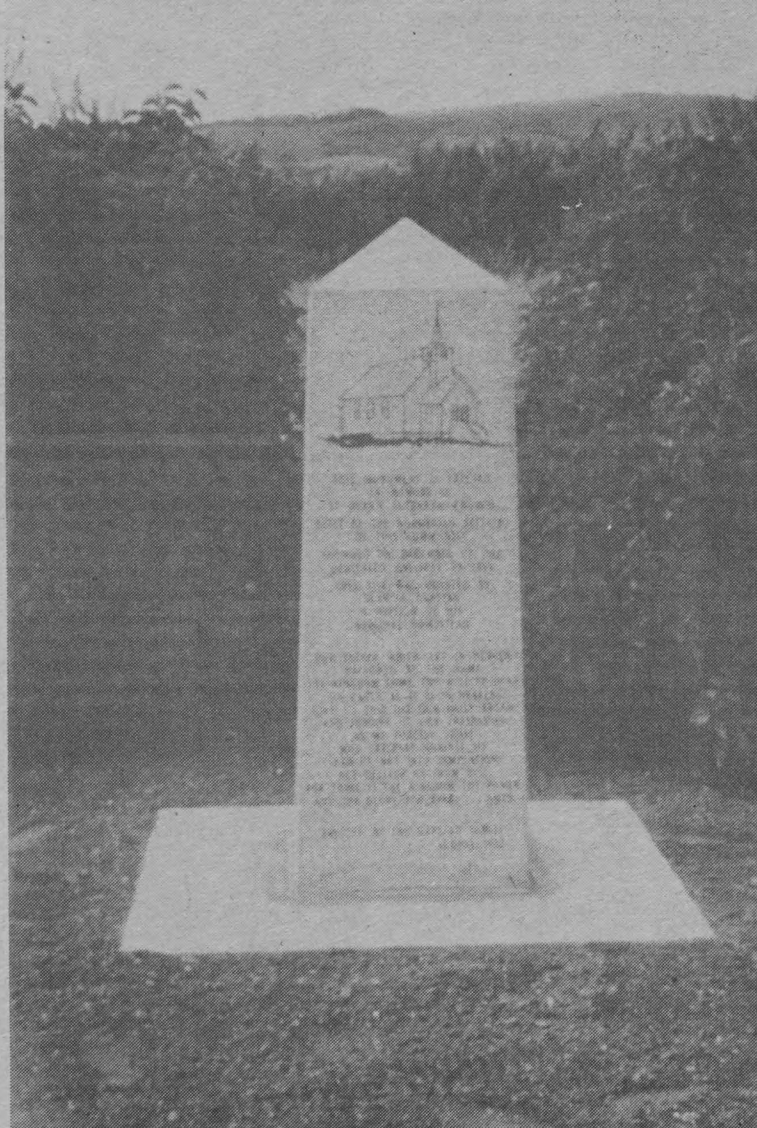
Highlight of the year was the opening of the Stephan G. Stephansson Homestead at Markerville, Alberta. Visitors from far and near in Canada and the U.S.A, as well as from Iceland, were present at the house opening, which is regarded as one of the most significant cultural events in the Icelandic communities of North America.

Other successful events were Thorrlablot, Tombola, Heritage Days participation, and Markerville picnic. After the meeting coffee and goodies were served. Thanks to Shirley Sigurdson for convening lunch.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to the Shaw family in the loss of Mickey Shaw, who passed away November 1st after a lengthy illness. Mickey was an active member of the Icelandic Society, Saga Singers, and Ladies' Auxillary until failing health curtailed her activities.

She will be remembered with love and missed by all.

GARSTADS ERECT MEMORIAL



On August 11, 1982, the Garstad family had a monument erected at the Lutheran Cemetery at the foot of the Nose Hills, Veteran, Alberta.

This site was donated in 1938 by Olav J. Garstad from his original homestead.

Although the church was moved to Veteran some years ago, Olav J. Garstad, along with other Norwegian settlers are resting at the original site.

St. Olav's Evangelical Lutheran Church was built by the Norwegian settlers in the community in 1939. It was dedicated that same year and served the community for many years.

The monument is in memory of the Norwegian settlers who helped build and settle the surrounding districts (Coronation, Throne and Veteran).

It is given in memory from the family of the late Olav J. Garstad.

SAGAS OF LEIF ERICKSON

by Bob Burt

Leif Erickson Night was celebrated on October 30th by sixty staunch Norwegians when they gathered for supper and dance at the University Faculty Club, where they heard the Sagas of the ancient Norskes.

Astrid Hope set the mood with several Norwegian displays.

Ken Domier, speaking on the Sagas of Leif Erickson, quoted Farley Mowatt's "Westward Viking" as he reviewed the Norske exploration from Greenland. He mentioned that one of the passengers, Tyrker, possibly a Dane, was also mentioned by Mowatt. (A further quote was "Who would stay in such a place as this?") We are proud of this Viking

explorer and his link with Canada. Sev Berge followed with a description of his visit this summer to the site where Leif Erickson landed and later settled. Sev and his wife visited L'Anse Aux Meadows in northern Newfoundland where they saw many artifacts as well as the excavated dwellings of those daring first Norske settlers.

Following the supper Agnes Jan Burt was called to receive her Past President's Badge; Life Membership pins and certificates were presented to Mrs. Isabelle Mjaatveit and Ruth and Henry Logan.

The evening was a memorable occasion.

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LETHBRIDGE CELEBRATES 50TH



Asta Hage, historian, gives a resume of 50 years



Vasa Chinooks - Junior Club

by Asta Hage
Lethbridge Vasa Lodge #579 celebrated the 50th anniversary on the long week-end in May. It started with a Wine and Cheese party on Friday evening; Official Opening on Saturday morning; Banquet and Dance Saturday evening; and a

Farewell Breakfast Sunday morning.
A group of Folkdancers from Harjedalen, Sweden visited Lethbridge on their North American Tour. The 47 members from the towns of Lillhandal and

Sveg, Sweden were billeted by members of the Lethbridge Vasa Lodge, and they entertained at public appearances on Saturday at the Central Catholic School grounds, and on Sunday at the Scandinavian Hall. They were honoured guests at a banquet at

the Scandinavian Hall on Saturday night, and at a potluck supper on Sunday night, also as guests of the Lodge. Their performances were greatly enjoyed; in fact, they performed for a full house on the Sunday afternoon. They made many friends on their 2-day visit.

The annual picnic of the Lethbridge Vasa Lodge was held at Keho Lake, included with a 3 day Campout. One of the Highlights of our Picnics, is the "Slaying of Cat in the Barrel", minus the Cat, which is replaced by "Goodies."

FINNISH FOOTNOTES

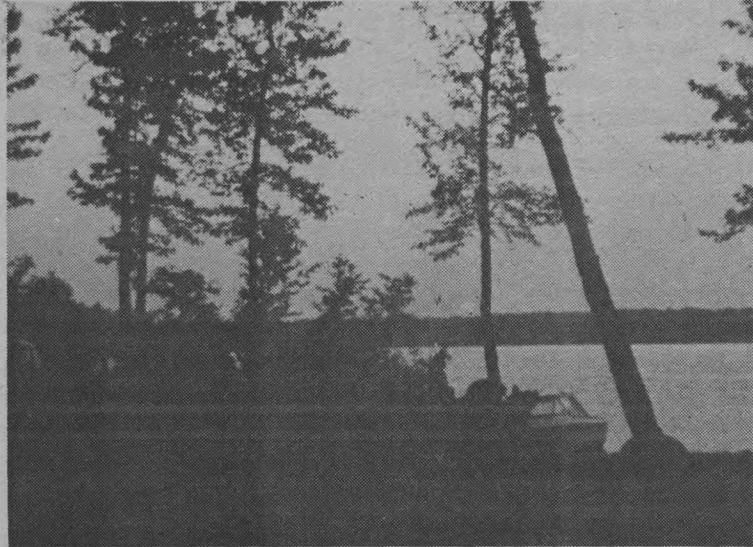
by Anja Sahuri
The Adult Christmas Party will be held on Dec. 4, 1982 at Britannia Youngstown Community Hall, 15927 - 105 Avenue, Edmonton. Bring a small gift to Santa's bag.
Speedy recovery to John Rama, Lauri Vesalainen, Thomas Nahkuri and Jenny Hurskainen who all were hospitalized recently.
Congratulations and Best Wishes to Mr. & Mrs. Kari Pesonen on the birth of their son recently.

If you know of anyone who is in hospital or who is celebrating a special birthday, please let Mrs. Bertha Rama know of these occasions. Also if you wish, please let Anne Sahuri know of any news items you wish to appear in the paper. Thank you.
If you have taken photos at Finnish Society do's, please phone me at 489-7515, ask for Anja. We will be happy to pay for the photos for Finnish Society Scrap Book.

The Annual General meeting of Finnish Society was held on Nov. 9, 1982 at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Pentti Sipari.
During the meeting the new executive was elected for 1983 and is formed as follows:
President, Pentti Sipari
Vice President, Kati Vaisanen
Treasurer, Anja Sahuri
Secretary, Anneli Thurlin
P.R. Secretary, Janna Geitel-Mead
Membership Secretary, Pasi Karsten
Social Director, Judy VanEs
Sports Director, Pauli Vanhala
Sports Director, Markku Erkvaara

down and enjoyed the delicious luncheon prepared by Mrs. Sipari.
Our deepest sympathies are extended to the family of Jenny Hurskainen, who passed away recently.
The logo design contest for new

T-shirts continues, so get your pencils ready and enter soon. Send your entries to Pentti Sipari.
HAUSKAA JOULUA JA ONNELLISTA UUTTA VUOTTA KAIKILLE LUKIJOILLE!



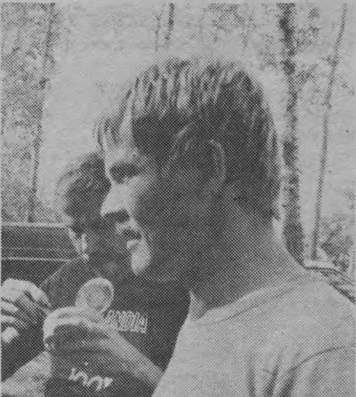
Midsummer night at Hanmore Lake



Juhannus and a morning swim
Sirkka Ristola and Vilho Ristola were elected as auditors and Urho Leino and Mikko Lindfors were elected as deputy-auditors. During the meeting it was decided that Finnish Society Bursary will be presented to Vireo Karvonen. Congratulations, Vireo! When all the formalities were over, everyone sat



Is supper ready? Sirkka Wahlberg and Marla Utunen



Pasi Karsten and Pauli Vanhala snack at the Juhannus picnic

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JANUARY 15, 1982

OFFICIAL OPENING

The Speech given by Mrs. Rosa Benedictson, as a tribute to her mother, Helga—wife of Stephan G. Stephansson, at the official opening of the family home as an historic site of Alberta, August 7, 1982.

Honorable Master of Ceremonies, Honored Guests, Friends and relations from far and wide. I am very pleased to observe the large number of people present here today. For many it will be a homecoming day.

This is indeed a momentous occasion in the lives of our family, and the history of this community, and I feel it is both an honour and a privilege to be able to attend. I was requested to pay tribute to my mother and I shall attempt to do so.

It has been said that behind every successful man, there is a woman, and I am sure that adage applies to my father, and that woman was my mother, Helga.

Their paths led together early in life, as both my grandparents came from the same farmstead in Iceland and emigrated to Wisconsin U.S. when my parents were teenagers in 1873. Five years later on Aug. 28th, 1878 they were united in marriage at Green Bay, Wisconsin.

After 16 years of pioneering in the United States, my parents, with their 3 young sons and my paternal grandmother, decided to come to Canada to homestead. So in 1889 they came by railway to Calgary, which was the terminal point at that time. This was the North West Territories then, as Alberta didn't become incorporated as a province till 1905. My father went the 90-some miles, by team and wagon, to the north and west to file on a homestead and build a home for the family. Meanwhile the family remained in Calgary.

In August he returned, and they proceeded on their journey to this homestead. They must have camped overnight, under the stars, or rather under the wagon. I forgot to ask about some of the details of that trip.

They had to ford the Red Deer River which was quite high and swift flowing. My father led the horses across, but in midstream he felt as though he was about to be swept downstream. He looked back at Mother, and she smiled to him; he regained his foothold, and all landed safely across. This was the encouragement he required and it was an inspiration for a poem which he composed years later, in which he attributes that success of this adventure to the smile my mother gave him. My mother related this event to me saying "I was not a bit afraid even though the boys & I sat on the loaded wagon". This was in August, and in the first week in October, twin daughters were born to my parents. The lady on the next homestead was skilled in midwifery, so all went well. It took a lot of faith and courage and stamina to go out in

the wilderness to homestead, and make a success of it; my mother was endowed with those qualities of character.

Father had to seek employment away from home during the first summer in order to sustain his family, so he obtained work on a surveyor's crew in the Edmonton area. Mother, their 5 children and my paternal grandmother were alone on the homestead. Luckily there were neighbors on the next homestead. But Mother was brave and resourceful, so all went well.

I remember her relating this incident to me. Prairie fires were a constant threat in those early years, the grass was so rank and dry. A fire was raging on the west side of the river, but fanned by a high wind, it jumped across the river and was heading for the house. So they prepared to evacuate and packed as much as they possibly could. But just below the hill, there was a boggy area, and the fire died down and all was saved.

There was never any mention of there being hardships in those early years, rather the situations were just a challenge. There was never any need of time for complaining.

My mother was the most devoted, self-sacrificing personality that you would encounter in life. Her family's welfare and her home duties were of paramount importance to her, but she could always find time for the passer-by. The first school was built on our homestead, so young people came for periods of time to stay with my parents in order to avail themselves of a bit of education. Several teachers boarded at our place, due to the close proximity of the school. There were visitors often, and some stayed for periods of time if they had difficult circumstances. My two eldest brothers stayed with my parents after they were married, till they had their homes established. There were 8 children born to my parents, but 2 died young. So the household was always large in numbers, but there was always room for one more at my mother's table.

My father was a farmer all his life, but he was endowed with a great poetic gift. So after his day's work on the farm, in the evening and any spare moments he had, he devoted to his beloved composing. So Mother strove to have an atmosphere of peace and quiet in the home which my father required for the pursuit of his beloved composing.

When my father was preparing his manuscripts for the publication of his poems, he wrote far into the night. My mother arose after midnight, made father some coffee, to buoy up his spirits. A labour of love and the co-operation which marked the 49 years of their married life.

So without my mother's energetic and devoted spirit, the literary world might have been deprived of some of father's contributions, due to scarcity of time.

Blessed be her memory.



Markerville, August. 7th

(Then after speaking in Icelandic, she went on ...)

I would like at this time to express my sincere gratitude on behalf of our family and myself to all and sundry who have contributed so much towards the restoration of this home. To the Cultural Societies, groups of people who have donated great financial assistance, notably among them the large sum of money which the farmers of Iceland contributed, and to the individuals who have donated time and effort and with good co-operation have successfully accomplished this historic event.

May you be richly rewarded as you observe with pride and satisfaction the contribution you have made to the cultural history of this great country of ours for posterity.

I now have another pleasant duty to perform.

On "Dedication Day", July 27th, 1975 when this home was officially declared an Historic Site, there was

a multitude of people present for the ceremony and among those who attended there were numerous people from Iceland.

The ladies in that group noted with disappointment that my mother did not receive any recognition at the ceremony, for the part she played in my father's successful career and the establishment of this home.

So to show their respect for the memory of my mother, the women from Pingeyjarsyslu where my mother came from, decided to donate a fitting memento which was to be placed in the home, when the restoration was completed.

Their choice was an exquisite hand-carved flag-stand made of Icelandic birch, by a skilled artist Halldor Sigurdsson. On the base is the carved outline of the map of

Iceland, also an old fashioned turf house and a church, and the word Island carved on the map. On either side is a birch leaf beautifully carved. Printed in large letters is my Mother's name Helga Sigridur Jonsdottir from Mjoadal in Bardardal. In smaller letters "A memento from the women of Pingeyjarsyslu who were present at Markerville July 27th, 1975. In larger letters a line from one of father's well known poems, which reads, "Far in the eternal outer sea, your island wakes." On top of the flagstand is the blue flag of Iceland with its red and white crosses.

I have been the custodian of this priceless memento since 1976, and I now take pride in presenting it to our Honorable Minister of Culture, Madam Le Messurier, to be placed in the home.

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Tropic Breeze

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Nordic Sun

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